



Mark Sandiford

A peaceful, serene McGill University campus awaits the opening of the 1975 Winter Carnival next week. See tomorrow's Daily for details.

Engineering lab conditions protested

by Rory Clarke

The rights of technicians in the Civil Engineering laboratory are being violated, sources close to that department disclosed yesterday.

The technicians' grievances involved poor safety precautions, lack of communication with their supervisor and criticism of job classifications and descriptions. "There are no safety precautions", the sources said. "No one is trained to prevent accidents and there are no warning posters around."

Many complaints centred around claims that workers were required to lift metal beams and other heavy objects. Frequently, it was alleged, the lifts provided for this purpose were "too awkward." One technician reportedly suffered a back injury due to this heavy lifting.

Another source of complaint was the technicians' exposure to silicadust, which is very finely ground quartz. The dust apparently penetrates the facemasks workers wear, and according to a doctor, should be handled only in a ventilated atmosphere. This was not the case in the Civil Engineering lab.

Professor C.J. Turkstra of the

Civil Engineering department, countered that these allegations are false. He attributed the men's reluctance to work with the silica dust as their wanting to "back out of the dirty work."

In the ten years he has been there, he said, the safety record has been extremely good. He had called in experts familiar with this type of hazard, who had said that there was no danger in limited exposure. The masks the lab provided, they asserted, were not of an inferior quality, as claimed, but were actually adequate for such durations of exposure to silica.

Further, Turkstra pointed out, there was a grievance committee within the department which could have been used for complaints.

To Professor Turkstra, one worker responded, a "good safety record" meant no one had gotten killed.

Last year, a personnel officer from the Administration visited the laboratory and was reportedly informed of the men's grievances. The workers understood that the officer would report back to them. But when asked if this was the normal procedure, the Administration reported that it was their

practice to make recommendations to the department head, but not to report back to the workers themselves. They would not comment on the specific duties required of the technicians, or the basis for promotions and raises of salary.

MUNASA (McGill University Non-Academic Staff Association) had been contacted by the technicians. Their specific demands for a voice in choosing their vacation dates and for reclassification of jobs were handled by Duncan Cameron, whose position as acting liaison officer involved dealing with grievances brought to MUNASA. He allegedly brought the technicians' grievances back to the department heads where they remained unresolved.

The department sources felt that many other departments have problems similar to those of Civil Engineering. Workers generally, they said, were reluctant to speak out because of departmental reprisals. It was also felt that the large percentage of foreign workers at McGill were afraid to speak out because they were insecure about their status and were more easily intimidated.

Haridy trial tomorrow

Ismail Haridy, a twenty-four year old teaching-assistant at Dawson College, is standing trial tomorrow, Friday, February 7, 10:00 am at the Palais de Justice, Montreal.

Haridy is on trial for alleged assault with intent to commit an illegal offence, the same charge that the judge threw out of court

in November for lack of evidence. There are no apparent reasons for this police persecution of Haridy except that he refused to make any deals with them concerning the first trial. The police seem intent on creating difficulty for Ismail "to teach him a lesson."

Juanita Westmoreland-Traor

re, a prominent community lawyer, is defending Haridy. Haridy would appreciate as many students as possible to be in court on Friday to support him. Any interested people please contact Rob Long at 843-3441 or go directly to the courtroom.

Architect on identity

by Lenny Wexler

Buildings must be designed to fit the social needs of the people who will inhabit them, said American designer Ronald Beckman in a speech to an audience of 160 yesterday. The talk was part of the Identity Symposium currently taking place at McGill.

Beckman, who is director of the Research and Design Institute in Providence, Rhode Island, centred his talk on the way in which architectural spaces affect people's lives and behaviour. He broadened the old architectural adage "form follows function" to include the concept of social function.

"Whereas visual art such as sculpture, painting and dance are representational, architecture is something you use."

Beckman criticized a particular piece of architecture which he said was obviously not designed with the participants in mind. The building he referred to was the McGill University Centre (the Union) which had caused many problems during the production of the symposium.

He spoke of various areas for which his group came up with designs for schools, office buildings, hospitals and homes for the elderly. The designs enable the occupants of buildings to become true participants in the social organization of those buildings. His basic device for creating this environment is the open plan style of architecture, a plan which includes very few walls so that people are encouraged to interact with each other and avoid forming hierarchies.

"Offices," he said, "should be networks in which the office workers are equal participants. Presently they are pyramids."

Dr. Beckman's feeling is that all people, whether school children or elderly people need to have a purpose in their environment. "When someone ceases to have a role, he loses his sanity and his will to live."

The aim of his designs are to help these people find their role and this idea provided the tenuous tie between Beckman's talk and the Identity Symposium.

Chinese plan cultural weeks

by W. Y. Liu

Four episodes of Felix Greene's documentary classic, "One Man's China," will be part of the features during the two-week Chinese cultural festival to start this week at McGill.

For the second time in two years, this year's Chinese cultural festival, sponsored by the McGill Chinese Students' Society, with the assistance of the East Asian Studies Students' Association, will focus on the continuing social

experimentation going on in socialist China.

Activities this year include an exhibit at Redpath Library, films and lectures which will be climaxed by a variety show pooling some of the talents of some 700 Chinese students at McGill.

Felix Greene, next to Edgar Snow perhaps, is the best known in the West for his compassionate understanding of the Chinese people. As a journalist he has been in and out of China more than six times.

"One Man's China" is a series of eight movies shot by Greene

continued on page 6

IMPORTANT DAILY MEETING

Today at 5 pm in the Daily Office. All staffers—reporters, photographers and production people—are urged to participate in the mid-year ratification of this year's editors. New editorial board members will be elected to fill vacancies on the board.

Film: "Salt of the Earth" Tonight at 8 pm in Union B26-27. Sponsored by the Workers' Support Committee.

classifieds

These ads may be placed in the advertising office at the University Centre from 9 am to 5 pm. Ads received by 10 o'clock appear the following day. Rates: 3 consecutive insertions—\$3.00 maximum 20 words. 15 cents per extra word.

HOUSING

Fifth person wanted to share large house near Atwater metro. \$95 per month (or \$75 in basement), utilities included. Phone 935-4162.

To sublet: One room in male residence section of downtown YMCA. Lease runs until May 1. Call 849-5331 ext. 422.

Sublet: Loft, St. Lawrence until May 1st. Lease renewable; newly equipped — fridge, stove; electricity, heating included. Ideal as workshop. Reasonable. 843-5406.

WANTED

Person to help staff Community McGill 2-4 hrs/wk. Learn about services in Mt. community. Mon., Wed. 1-3, Thurs. 11-1:30. Union 411.

TUTOR — experienced and qualified in teaching PHYSICS 102 and CALCULUS 121, by the hour, phone 849-0211 between 7 and 9. Used, good hockey equipment, speakers, tuner. FOR SALE: complete X-country equipment. Phone Mark at 631-9943 Thurs. 1-5 p.m., Fri. 4:30-6 p.m.

Double French horn. Excellent condition. Call Tilda 697-5519 after 4:30 p.m.

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Jan. 31, 75 — Women's Seiko dated watch, black suede band, blue face. Little monetary value, great sentimental value. Reward offered. Contact Susan K. 721-3235.

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Problem? Feel you need to rap with a rabbi? Call Israel Hausman 341-3580.

WE'RE PROUD of our fraternity, and we'd love to show you around, and treat you to lunch while we're at it. Any weekday at 1 p.m., Sigma Chi, 3581 University.

ENTERTAINMENT

The Graduate Children's Film Program presents MELODY TIME, animated musicals by Walt Disney. Saturday at 11 and 1:30. Leacock 132, 50 cents.

Tobogganing on Mount Royal — meet at Sigma Chi, 3581 University, Friday at 7 p.m. After tobogganing, back to house for hot toddies before a blazing fire. EVERYONE'S WELCOME!

DODESKADEN Fri. Feb. 7 in FDAA, DAY OF THE JACKAL (needs no introduction) in L132, Sat., Feb. 8. Both at 7 & 9:30 p.m. 75 cents. MFS Info 392-8934.

MISCELLANEOUS

Auto Mechanics - End senseless labor charges, do your own repairs, learn how in M.S.E.A.'s Auto Mechanics Course. Registration: Wed., Tues. & Thurs. 11-1 Union Lobby or phone 392-3094.

Photography - learn to take beautiful, descriptive, imaginative photographs in M.S.E.A.'s photography course. Registration: Wed. Thurs. 11-1 Union Lobby.

MOVING? Graduate student-trucks available, efficiency and reliability absolutely guaranteed, book now for April, move anything-low rates, Tim 481-6385.

Join us for a weekly celebration of the Eucharist. Simple, contemporary Anglican Liturgy. Every Fri. 1:00 Yellow Door Coffee House, second floor. Info: 392-4947.

At the buying club we get it for you wholesale - 3587 University, corner of Prince Arthur. 392-3094 for information.

Don't miss the Charles Darwin Ski Expedition to Mt. Bromont leaving 6:30 p.m. Feb. 7th. \$6.00 gets you transportation, 1 ski ticket, entertainment with 2 live bands and 1 free beer. Without ski ticket \$4.00. Drive or walk and save. \$2.50 for ticket and beer only. Tickets on sale in Stewart Bldg. room N2/B.

Astrology - Study the techniques of predicting the future scientifically through the use of Astrology & Tarot. Register in Union Lobby 11 1 pm Tues. to Thurs. or phone 392-3094. Hypnotism - Self relaxation, study habits can be improved through Hypnotism. Sign up in Union Lobby 11-1 Tues. & Thurs. & Wed. "El Cheapo" lunches, Mon. — Fri. 12-2, Yellow Door Coffee House, 3625 Aymer. 392-4947.

French - You need French to get a job in Quebec. Invest in your future! Register for M.S.E.A.'s Comprehensive French course. Union lobby 11-1 or phone 392-3094, Tues. Wed. Thurs.

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midnight

Come and join the studio audience of CBMT's late-night talk show, hosted by **Laurier LaPierre**, and produced live every Friday night at 11:30. Also, a pre-show guided tour of the Maison de Radio-Canada gets under way at 10 p.m. the same evening. For reservations for Midnight and the tour, phone 285-2690 (during office hours).

CBC Television in Montreal

CBMT 6



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Erratum

In yesterday's recruitment ad for editors and layout artists for Old McGill '75 we neglected to mention our address. It is Union B-45.

Remember, drop in for an interview and a cup of tea. MWF 1-2 or TTh 12-1.



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Editorial

Divide and conquer

The administration controls the workers of McGill at the departmental level. The Civil Engineering situation points this up clearly. It was at this level that decisions affecting the workers are made. The McGill Charter, for example, says that employees can choose their own vacation dates unless the department head decides otherwise. Recommendations for job reclassification are made to the departmental heads by the Administration, but only the department can implement them. Grievances brought to MUNASA are frequently brought to the departmental supervisors, resulting in the possible reprisal of the employee.

This decentralization of power is the administration's strongest source of power over the worker. With relatively few numbers of employees per department, workers have been fairly isolated from each other. It is little wonder that no union has been formed before now.

The newly-formed union NUMOTE seeks to overcome these divisions created by the administration and by MUNASA. It seeks only to represent the workers' interests, and NUMOTE emerges as the only alternative the workers at McGill have to complete domination by the administration.

One can only wonder at how often the workers' rights within the various departments have been compromised. Without the support of any strong organization, workers have been vulnerable to the individual and often arbitrary wishes of department heads.

McGill workers are beginning to make themselves heard, though they must remain anonymous for fear of losing their jobs during administration reprisals. Yesterday's willingness of the workers in the Civil Engineering department to make known their case will reveal to all workers on campus that the only cure for poor working conditions is to fight for their rights. Workers at McGill are realizing that it is impossible to win individually or behind the false protection of MUNASA, but that they must publicize their plight and seek the protection and unified strength of a certified union.

MCGILL
DAILY

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Research funding
crisis developing

by Malcolm Guy

"They want to cut off the roots because any damn fool knows that the apples don't grow there" is how a high ranking McGill scientist describes the present lack of funding for basic research in Canadian universities.

Professor Maxwell Dunbar, director of McGill's Marine Science Centre, was explaining how the government is starving fundamental research at universities in favour of short term mission-oriented research.

"Basic research may take years to come up with a discovery, and is extremely expensive; it has been pushed into the background," said Dunbar. "Instead we have concentration on research oriented towards immediate technological objectives" Dunbar said, "where the results come much faster and pay dividends in a short time, making them much easier to explain to the inquiring taxpayer and businessman."

Dunbar is the co-author of a letter that appeared recently in Montreal papers and was sent to universities across the country in an attempt to raise support in the demand for an increase in the level of financial support for

basic research. The other authors were McGill professors Barry Newman and Stanley Mason.

The letter states how research in science and engineering in universities is supported mainly through the National Research Council (NRC) grants, and how in four years since 1970, when the LaMontagne Senate report "A science policy for Canada" appeared, these NRC grants have fallen farther and farther behind escalating inflation.

NRC grant support increased only 5 per cent in the five years while the Gross National Product increased 49 per cent and the Consumer Price Index 29 per cent. The letter explains how equivalent agencies in France, Britain and the U.S. have increased the funds allocated by approximately 50 per cent.

It goes on to show how technology depends for its existence upon science, and states that "science is basic to the culture of civilized man; without it civilization retreats. It stresses that fundamental scientific research cannot be judged by conventional 'cost benefit analysis' but by its

ultimate long term benefits."

The cut-back is affecting everyone said Dunbar. "My research project is about \$4,000 in the red for this year and I will have to make it up out of the grants I receive later. This means I will have to cut down on cost and equipment drastically next year."

Dunbar said that the younger professors and graduate students are the hardest hit by the cut-backs. "Many leading young scientists are going south, they can't afford to stay if offered good paying jobs," said Dunbar.

Professor Barry Newman, also a co-author, said that although the engineering faculty researchers had not been hit as hard as the pure science faculties, there was less money available for equipment and staff and younger staff were not receiving adequate funds.

Dunbar and Newman hope that the letter and the responses they receive will lead to action on the part of the government, because, "basic science is, in the last analysis, all we have in our power to make it possible to develop technological advances and therefore economic return."

New emphasis on applied research

by Sasha Cunningham

Governments are allocating less money to basic research, Walter Hirschfeld, Dean of Graduate Studies and Research said yesterday in an interview with the Daily. "In the last five years we have been under severe pressure of funds because government policies have changed. They have kept the funds fixed in a highly inflationary environment."

McGill is involved with governments both publicly and privately, working with them to

solve problems in almost every field. When asked about relations with the U.S. and other governments Hirschfeld said "we have had very good relations with the U.S. in the past few years. We have been beneficiaries of the U.S. armed forces. We have been accused of doing war research. We have never done war research. We have done open research." This comment was in reference to a letter circulated by Industrial Research McGill soliciting professors to do war research for

the U.S. air force.

When asked whether or not he found that francophone universities have priority over McGill, he replied "We have occasional difficulty in making ourselves understood. It doesn't mean that things are always easy and smooth - we live in an atmosphere of tension with the government, I hope that the atmosphere is creative."

It seems that Hirschfeld's main concern is how to solve the problem of inflation. Due to inflation, governments have

changed their attitudes towards scientific research. Because governments want research to be "cost sufficient" they are no longer as willing to support theoretical research which has no immediate visible value to society.

There are two types of research - one is applied, the other is fundamental. "Applied research uses principles which are already known, e.g. the study of pollution in coastal waters. Fundamental research tries to discover the principles

which are essential to applied research," said Hirschfeld. "Both are interrelated, but because fundamental research is not instantaneously visible, governments have turned their attention to applied research, thereby separating the two," he added.

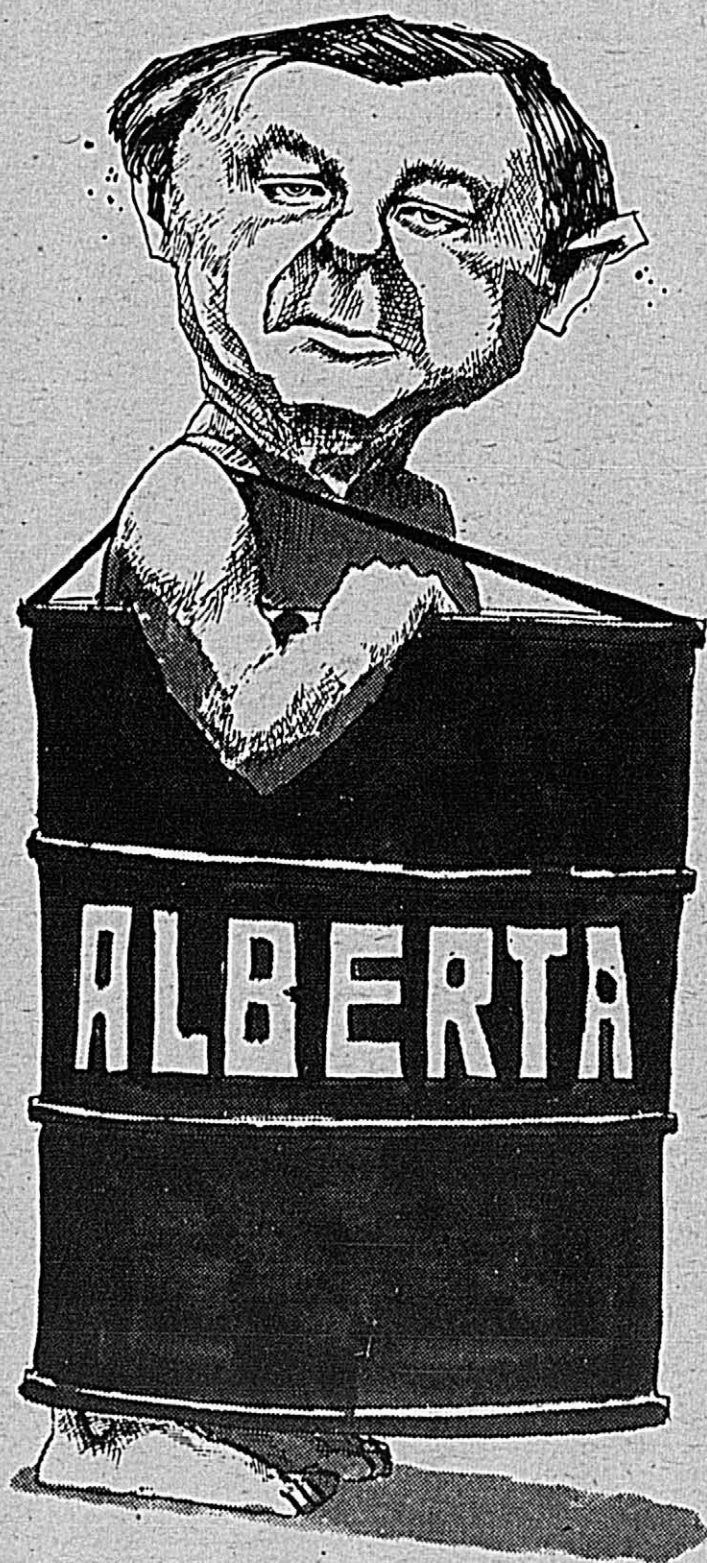
Hirschfeld said, "We have become more open and are quite willing to engage in research which is more immediately visible in addition to fundamental research."



ART: ARIEL BORREMAN'S TEXT: DANIEL BOHATZ

The crude hoax ab

by Jim Anderson



AISLIN 74.

In keeping with his proclivity for image politicking, Premier Peter Lougheed of Alberta paid a Toronto-based PR agency, Baker-Lovick Ltd., over \$6000 to prepare his announcement of the decision to proceed with the massive Syncrude tar sands project in the fall of 1973. Thanks to Lougheed and the eastern ad agency, the Alberta public was treated to a half-hour television spectacular, featuring the premier's stirring Alberta First rhetoric packaged seductively with an impressive use of props, visual aids, scenery and song. The Syncrude deal, Lougheed proudly proclaimed, heralded "a new era for energy in the province."

The impact was overwhelming. The news media throughout the province greeted the announcement with acclaim. Mayor Dent of Edmonton, an old NDP warhorse, was ecstatic. The town of Fort McMurray, situated in the Athabasca tar sands, declared a holiday.

Clearly, the time of the tar sands had come. Syncrude's formidable public relations department was soon at work reinforcing Lougheed's message that the Syncrude deal proved the commercial viability of mining the sands. Syncrude ran nation-wide television ads showing Gordon Pinsent dropping pebbles in a pond to illustrate the economic benefits of its tar sands plant spreading like waves to all parts of Canada. Albertans were also subjected to a half-hour television "documentary" entitled "Time of the Tar Sands" narrated by Pinsent and produced by none other than Syncrude's versatile public relations manager, John Barr.

The message was easy to believe. The location of the tar sands was known, no exploration was necessary. The extraction method appeared to be proven. Great Canadian Oil Sands had been operating a plant based on the hot water process since 1967. The world was hungry for energy and the price of oil was rising.

Economic uncertainty

Recent setbacks to the vaunted Syncrude project, however, suggest that the gung-ho approach to tar sands development advocated by Premier Lougheed and the oil industry was never really viable. Atlantic Richfield, one of the four U.S. multinationals involved in the Syncrude consortium, recently withdrew its 30% interest in the project. Syncrude's cost estimate skyrocketed from the original figure of \$800 million to more than \$2 billion and the company is now laying off workers. Meanwhile, Lougheed's steadfast hostility to federal involvement in the tar sands has shown remarkable change and he is now willing to allow Ottawa to become a partner in Syncrude by picking up the 30% stake in the operation formerly held by Atlantic Richfield. These developments suggest that oil sands extraction using the surface mining method—the only questionable technique employed on a large scale to date—is a questionable exercise on economic grounds alone.

The Alberta government's policy—formulated on the advice of U.S. oil consultant Walter Levy (Last Post, Vol. 4, No. 4)—calls for construction of one large-scale plant every two years on the average between now and the end of the century.

The impact on the environment of such rapid tar sands development would almost certainly be catastrophic. Despite efforts by the Lougheed government and Syncrude to delude the

public about the environmental consequences of their tar sands strategy, enough information has filtered through to provide a frightening view of the ecological effects of the Syncrude plant alone or in combination with a number of similar projects.

The massive scale of the Syncrude operation is the first hint of its potential ecological effect. It will be the world's largest strip mine, employing huge draglines to scoop over 13,000 tons of tar sand per hour—five times Canada's hourly coal production. This large volume of tar sand will be sent by conveyor belt to the plant where it will be separated by means of a hot water process to produce about 125,000 barrels of oil per day plus an incredible volume of highly polluting waste material.

Environmental implications

Much of this waste will be poured in to a 9.3 square mile reservoir euphemistically called a "tailings pond" which will be highly toxic and covered with a layer of oil, posing a serious threat to the millions of waterfowl that breed in the Peace-Athabasca delta and fly directly over the Syncrude lease area on their yearly migration.

The tailings could also devastate the sensitive delta in the event of a rupture of the retaining dykes or through seepage in to the nearby Athabasca River. According to a report by the provincial civil servants, sulphur dioxide emissions from a number of Syncrude-size plants could combine with water vapour to form a killer-fog similar to the Great London Fog of 1952, which killed 3,500 people. Not only would mine workers and town residents be imperilled, but airborne SO₂ could combine with surface waters in the area to form a lethal acid which would adversely affect vegetation as far away as Saskatchewan.

Reclamation of the 800 square miles of tar sands amenable to strip mining is also likely to be exceedingly slow in the harsh subarctic climate. Twenty to forty percent of the total flow of water in the Athabasca River will be drawn off by a number of tar sands plants (Syncrude alone will use 3.5 million gallons per hour) and ecologists warn that this could damage the Peace-Athabasca delta more drastically than the BC-Bennet Dam. Potential effects of oil spills have not been assessed by anyone, despite the fact that the single sands plant in operation has experienced two spills to date, one of which reached the delta.

Not surprisingly, a number of provincial environmentalists have recognized the profound implications of this massive assault on the ecology of the region and have documented it for their less conscientious political masters. A top-level interdepartmental group of Alberta civil servants, for example, warned their government that if the industry's plan for rapid exploitation of the sands were followed, "the impact on nature could be totally devastating." They noted the absence of any serious environmental studies, stating that "this apparent emphasis on winning the resource is again an indication of the heavy influence of the conventional crude oil industry."

The chairman of this group of bureaucrats stated emphatically that the McMurray region could become "a biologically barren wasteland." Another predicted that tar sands activity could turn northeastern Alberta into "a disaster region resembling a lunar

about Syncrude

landscape." No wonder, then, that an old soldier in the Loughheed cabinet who remembered being on hand when Great Canadian Oil Sands started its operation said it reminded him of "the beaches of Normandy on D-day."

Some civil servants in Alberta and a few of the more ecology-conscious members of the public have actually begun to think the unthinkable about tar sands development, namely that further plants on the Syncrude model cannot be permitted unless and until a less polluting technology is developed which incorporates the best possible abatement practices and technology into its operation. Loughheed's committee of top civil servants, for example, stated "It is obvious that current technology and recovery efficiencies must change drastically before additional plants should be approved." Similarly, a group of 75 citizens forming the Public Advisory Committee to the province's Environmental Conservation Authority called on the government to delay approval of further tar sands plants "until such time as a satisfactory method is demonstrated in the treatment of liquid tailings from the process."

Empty assurances

Syncrude itself is concerned that beefed-up environmental controls may be demanded in the future, after the public has witnessed a series of ecological disasters in the sands. A study of the principal risks of the Syncrude project prepared by Foster Economic Consultants for the Alberta government in 1973 also concluded that "an oil sands operator faces the possibility that future controls of a more strict nature could significantly add to both capital and operating costs."

Alberta's Environment Minister, Bill Yurko, is of the view that there is no possibility of pollution standards that could hinder the inexorable advance into the "new era for energy" represented by the oil sands, and as a demonstration of faith the good minister has given Syncrude written assurance that government standards will be reviewed only at five-year intervals regardless of the ecological damage that might occur in the meantime. As Larry Pratt states in his forthcoming book on the tar sands: William Yurko, Alberta's Minister of the Environment,

articulates in his public utterances the same philosophy of development which underlies the advice of the government's oil consultant, Walter J. Levy of New York. This school of opinion favours swift, conscripted exploitation of the tar sands on political and economic grounds.

Indeed, Yurko and Syncrude have jointly engaged in an incredible sleight-of-hand in environmental matters, aided by a gaggle of hiring consulting firms which eagerly compete with each other to produce superficial and misleading reports "scientifically" designed to rationalize inadequate pollution abatement practices and to quell public criticism.

Yurko's record as an apologist for Syncrude surely places him in a class by himself. When he was asked by NDP leader Grant Notley on May 30, 1974, if he had agreed to keep Syncrude's environmental studies confidential if the company so requested, he informed the legislature that he had indeed met with Syncrude on this matter and had "indicated to them, in a very strong way, the government policy in this regard, which is basically that all environmental information is public information and only the rarest exceptions will be made."

Syncrude's view of a meeting between Yurko and their environmental official is that the minister had agreed that any material given to his department stamped "confidential" would be respected as such. In the same exchange on the floor of the house, Yurko admitted that he had allowed Syncrude to revise one of their reports before it was submitted to his department.

Environmental control?

In a controversy that developed over the death of a number of waterfowl on the Syncrude lease, Yurko denied that bird-kill of any magnitude had taken place because "Dr. Goforth (Syncrude's environmental director) keeps me advised on almost everything that goes on in the Syncrude lease from an environmental point of view." Meanwhile, a senior biologist in the government's Fish and Wildlife Branch indicated that the last official report the government had received from Syncrude concerning waterfowl hazards on the lease had been a year and a half earlier and had in fact been woefully inadequate.

Even if the government were motivated to act as environmental watchdog in the oil sands region, it is difficult to imagine how this could be accomplished in view of the information obtained by a local anti-pollution group (Save Tomorrow Oppose Pollution) which revealed that Yurko's department has only four field staff empowered to police the government's Clean Water Act throughout the entire province.

In a statement later confirmed by federal Environment Minister Jeanne Sauve, Yurko revealed in early November that Alberta and Ottawa were near an accord regarding "dividing up the responsibilities" for environmental control in the tar sands which would clearly recognize that the province would be the only body engaged in ecological monitoring and enforcement. The companies wish to deal with only one jurisdiction, Yurko explained, and given his record, they naturally want this authority to rest with the province.

Yet, in a secret document entitled "Oil



Sands Development Policy" leaked to the NDP member of the Alberta legislature, provincial civil servants conceded that "federal jurisdiction in certain aspects of pollution control (air and water control) appears to override... provincial concerns." Federal officials have also noted Ottawa's responsibilities in the tar sands, particularly in relation to migratory birds, fisheries, and the almost certain spillover effects beyond Alberta's boundaries—e.g., the Northwest Territories and western Saskatchewan.

Company cover-up

Recent federal documentation of Syncrude's environmental mismanagement reveals the extent of the coverup by the company and the Alberta government.

A few weeks ago, Ottawa sources leaked a document to the Alberta NDP which consisted of a letter from Sauve to Yurko written last fall in which the federal minister strongly objected to Syncrude's elaborate Environmental Impact Assessment. While Syncrude boasts on page ten of its assessment document that, "The balance of losses and gains resulting from the Syncrude project may be determined on the basis of information presented here," Sauve points out that it does no such thing. In fact, she states, the company "failed to address the question of environmental protection in either a realistic or an adequate manner." Moreover, Sauve predicted "the likelihood for major environmental damage."

It seems the assessment therefore failed to make the grade even as an exercise in creative writing—that is, environmental impact assessments (according to the prestigious Canadian Environmental Law Association) are often written not so much to meet the needs of the environment as "to withstand the test of review." Syncrude's study flunked on both criteria.

In his reply to the Sauve letter, Yurko comments, quite accurately, that many of the objections raised by federal officials had been identified by his staff and communicated to Syncrude. Needless to say, they had never been communicated to the Alberta public.

The Sauve protest was based on a 70-page report prepared by a task force of federal experts set up to evaluate the Syncrude Impact Assessment. Reading the task force report gives one the impression that the federal officials are hard pressed to express their alarm and indignation at the Syncrude snow job within the confines of the dispassionate prose expected of bureaucrats. Yet, several of the misleading and inadequate aspects of the Syncrude Assessment documented by these

federal experts are revealing.

Underplaying the risks

Syncrude's coke burner complex and its sulphur plant will pour 287 long tons of sulphur dioxide into the atmosphere each stream day (a stream day is roughly equivalent to a calendar day). This sulphurous discharge could be reduced to as little as 40 long tons per stream day if the company would employ what federal officials call the "best practicable" pollution abatement equipment. Syncrude refuses to do so on economic grounds despite its "Environmental Policy Statement"—printed proudly in one of its publicity brochures—in which it proclaims its commitment to the use of the best practicable technology, both in resource development and environmental protection.

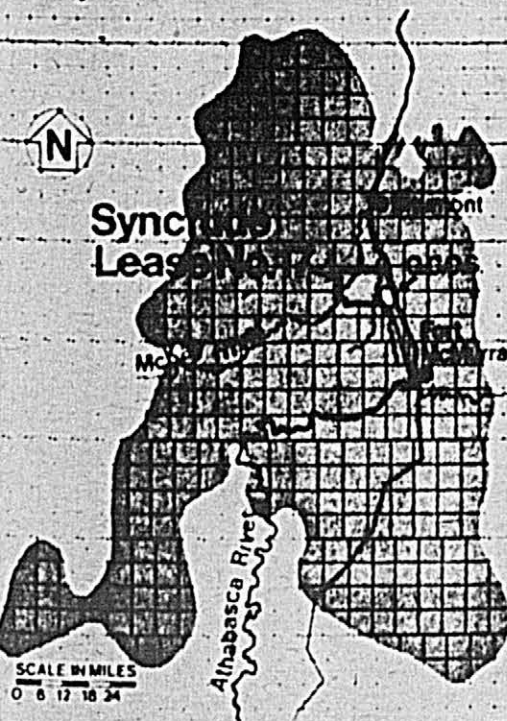
These unnecessarily vast sulphur dioxide emissions will mean, the task force continues, that under normal operating conditions the federal and provincial standards for SO₂ concentrations will be exceeded several fold. The Syncrude Assessments minimize the effects of SO₂ by calculations assuming optimal dispersion rates, conveniently ignoring that dangerous air inversions which trap pollutants close to ground level occur on 90 per cent of winter days in the lease area.

The federal statement that SO₂ emissions imposed a "real and serious threat" to vegetation beyond the lease provides an interesting contrast to a statement made by Dr. Goforth, Syncrude's top environmentalist, in a 1973 company PR brochure—"We want to confine all environmental effects to our Lease." The federal experts note that SO₂ emissions will have to be decreased with regard only to plants in operation. At the very least this calls into question Alberta's grandiose plans for a multi-plant operation in these sands. The Syncrude plant itself will produce air pollution levels presenting "hazards to mining and plant personnel."

The federal report emphasizes the threat posed by the 9.3 mile tailings "pond" as a major deficiency in Syncrude's assessment document. The company's "complete omission of any effects on groundwater" is criticized. Again, a company PR brochure states, "the effects of this pond on ground water are being investigated thoroughly."

These remarkable company brochures provide a couple of additional contrasts in relation to the tailing reservoir. Thus, one brochure states that "the area does not support any rare or endangered bird or animal species." Yet Table I of the Syncrude study entitled Migratory Waterfowl on the Syncrude Tar Sands Lease (1973) lists a whooping crane as

continued on page 7



Looking into dope

Research at McGill

by Mary Grasso

Pot and hash are placebos? Many psychologists, pharmacologists and other interested scientists claim that they are, and in recent years have produced a large body of evidence to back up their controversial theory.

For about six years, researchers at McGill have been carrying out a series of experiments to determine what influence set and setting have on the overall effects of cannabis.

According to research assistant Paul Spiers, who is coordinating one of these experiments for the Psychology Department this semester, it is generally accepted nowadays that the environment in which the individual smokes pot has considerable influence on the 'high' he will receive. "What we are trying to discover is whether or not this environment is more important than the active ingredient (THC) of the cannabis itself."

The importance of "atmosphere" and "contact" in getting a good high from pot or hash is clear to anyone who has smoked dope. Several "straights" may walk into a smoke-filled cinema showing a concert film, and before long they'll be laughing and talking as loudly as the multitude of stoned people around them.

And few dope smokers could claim that a room full of stoned people listening to Jimi Hendrix records has no effect on them.

The researchers at McGill are interested in two aspects of cannabis smoking. First, how the drug interacts with the environment and the person to produce certain effects; and secondly, to what extent the smokers can "control" the high they get from the cannabis, by utilizing the environment and their own experience.

Spiers and the other psychologists are using only experienced cannabis users in their Government funded experiments for a variety of reasons. For a start, the process of becoming a user of the drug involves acquiring the ability to both identify and enjoy its effects. Because of this, the inexperienced or "naive" user of cannabis may have a quite different reaction from the regular user.

For instance, most available studies record that experienced users of pot appear to expect a dramatic change of some kind. When this fails to happen, they claim that the drug has no effect upon them or else they "act out" what they have been led to believe is a more prevalent response to the drug. They then become markedly more boiste-

rous, uninhibited and expressive.

Regular cannabis users, by contrast, are noted as being typically quieter and more "withdrawn". Many theories have been put forward to explain this, such as the so-called "deleterious long-term effects of the drug on mental functioning" and other physiological reasonings, but most of these are heavily biased and often unsubstantiated.

A more plausible explanation, however, is that with time the cannabis user learns what to expect from the drug and how to control it for his own needs.

When an individual first uses cannabis he is likely to be quite open and uninhibited in expressing the extent of his new-found insight. This effect may last as long as the drug experience remains a novelty capable of sustaining a shared sense of excitement or discovery. Correspondingly, the user may experience intense rapport with those at a similar stage in their drug-taking career. In time and with more intensive use, however, he learns to become less demonstrative in his behavior, which implies that he begins to control his reaction to the drug.

To a certain extent, the experienced cannabis smoker

can control the drug's effects. A typical example used by proponents of this theory is that of the Rastafarians of Jamaica, who smoke the powerful "ganga" (which contains over 6% more THC than the average pot sold in Montreal) without experiencing the "high" most Montrealers would expect. According to Spiers, these cannabis smokers may smoke several joints a day without ever getting stoned in the common sense of the word, "simply because they don't expect to get stoned." Likewise, says Spiers, "if someone smokes some dope that doesn't smell like dope, there's a high probability he won't get stoned, especially if he is an inexperienced user."

It will most likely take many months of Government-grown grass and hours of intense research in specially designed rooms like the one Spiers has assembled in the Stewart Building before all the complex facets of cannabis smoking are discovered. But it is clear that even if cannabis is, as Andrew Weil describes it in his book "The Natural Mind, an 'active placebo ... where the influence of the set and setting dwarfs the influence of the drug itself,' people will continue to buy and smoke it until something better comes along.

Philip Berrigan

The Plight of Political Prisoners in the USSR

Thursday, Feb. 6 Leacock 132 8:30 p.m.

Sponsored by:

Mgill Ukrainian Society

C'tee for Defense of V. Moroz

McGill Debating Union

McGill Historical Society

Festival...

continued from page 1

during his visit to China in 1971. The films, lasting 25 minutes each, were produced for BBC television. They show various aspects of modern Chinese life and the successes achieved by her people in building a new society.

Scheduled to be shown at the festival are four of the eight films—on the communes, education, the People's Liberation Army, and day care.

According to Ben Mok, treasurer of the Chinese Students' Society, planning for the festival has required the exhaustive efforts of many hard-working Chinese students on campus.

"We are conscious," he said, "of the need to bridge the rather

wide cultural gap between the Chinese students and the mainstream of the student body."

Prof. Howard Chao, a Chinese-American professor from Yale University, is just one scholar who has been invited to give a lecture here during the festival in conjunction with the East Asian Studies Centre.

In addition, the Centre also invited Prof. Robin Porter of McGill to give a lecture on "Industrial Welfare in the Chinese Context" on February 13.

Howard Chao was born, raised, and educated in pre-1949 China and served as a war correspondent for the China Central News Agency in Chungking during the Sino-Japanese War. After the war, he left

Japan, then for the U.S., where he has been for the last 20 years. In 1973 and 1974, Chao went back to China to witness the changes he had missed in 20 years. With his earlier experiences in China, he was able to come back with very interesting insights about the social revolution.

The festival will be highlighted on the final night, February 15, by a variety show to be presented by Chinese students at McGill. Interesting features in their show will include playing of traditional Chinese musical instruments, and a skit based on Lu Hsun's "Story of Ah Q."

Students are advised to consult the Today column of the McGill Daily for the specific schedules of activities.

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Common concerns of students who are returning to education after interruptions for work, marriage, etc. Discussions..... workshops..guest speakers Meetings every Thursday 12:15 — 2:00 at the McGill Counselling Service, 522 Pine Ave. 392-5118.

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**"SPEAK
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a recital from the plays and
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...accompanied by
Rebecca Penneys on
harpichord

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6th
AT 8:00 P.M.

REDPATH HALL
TICKETS: \$2.00, \$1.00 for
students - available at the
Union Box Office,
3480 McTavish
(392-8926) or at the door.

QUEBEC GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS

The deadline for the Quebec Graduate Fellowship competition has been extended to FEBRUARY 19th. Application forms are available at the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, 3rd Floor, Dawson Hall.

Today

Film: Salt of the Earth:
Tonight at 8 pm in Union B26-27. Sponsored by the Workers' Support Committee.

Gamma Phi Beta Women's Fraternity:
Girls—come for coffee today and find out what women's frats are all about. 3-5 pm, 475 Prince Arthur.

McGill Christian Fellowship:
Dagwood supper at 6 pm in Union 307. Cost: \$1. Everyone welcome.

Centre for Northern Studies and Research:
Arctic films. Burnside Hall, room 45, 1-2 pm. Old McGill '75:
Potential editors and layout artists—come in for an interview and a cup of tea. Union B45, 12-1 pm.

Women's Badminton Club:
Practice 4-5:30 pm; Currie Gym. Everyone welcome.

Alpha Gamma Delta:
Meet our fraternity at dinner tonight, 5-7 pm. All women welcome. 3563 University St., Apt. 10. Identity Symposium:

"Ethnicity and Exploitation," with speakers Dr. Marie-Andree Bertrand, Professor of Criminology and ex-member of the LeDain Commission; and Juanita Westmoreland-Traore, lawyer and professor at U de M. Union ballroom, 12 pm. Films:

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INFORMATION 392-5305

Program 12:00 to 2:00 pm

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Admission Free

Syncrude...

continued from page 5

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This article was reprinted from the February-March issue of the Last Post.

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McGill Winter Carnival '75.

Scavenger Hunt Sign-Up

Find: The Most original item you can.

Teams: Singles, Groups, etc.

Judging: Opening Ceremonies

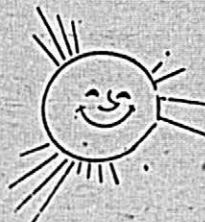
by Mark Burns

Each person accepts full responsibility for his or her actions, McGill accepts none.

Further rules & sign-up Rm. B-24
by Feb. 11, 392-8911.Place your cupid classified ad in the McGill Daily!
Special rates apply for this occasion only:
\$1.00 for 10 words or less; 15¢ each additional word.**ARE YOU FED UP WITH THE COLD****IN MONTREAL?****CAN'T AFFORD TO GO DOWN SOUTH?**

Do you know that in the heart of Montreal there is a place throbbing with warmth and life. Where friendship is not based on the way you dress or the way you think. Where you feel right at home with people you meet for the first time. Where delicious home-cooked meals and soothing songs transcend you into this special climate.

This Tropical Island is . . .

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Where the meaningful SHABBOS can be experienced!

From Friday 4:30 p.m.
SHABBOS 10 a.m.
SHABBOS 4 p.m.

ALL SERVICES FOLLOWED BY, TASTY HOME-COOKED MEAL.**SINGING, DANCING, RAP SESSIONS.****We ask no admission, only your participation.**

This Saturday night Feb. 8th—Melavah Melkah Party
beginning 8 p.m. Live music, singing, dancing; food for the body and the mind.

Quebec Winter Carnival**Sunday, February 9th**

An extra bus has been added and people previously put on the waiting list can now be accommodated. Those wishing to go must pay (\$7.00) before Friday 11 a.m. at

Hillel — 3460 Stanley St.
[2nd. floor office]
845-9171

HAVE IT YOUR WAY!

THE MCGILL BIOLOGY STUDENTS
UNION

PRESENTS:

Charles Darwin

FESTIVAL

Prizes for just about everything*Thursday, February 6*

12:00 noon— 1:00pm	PIPETTING CONTEST	Student Union 3480 McTavish Rms. 123 & 124	Ever try pipetting concentrated sucrose solutions? Try and win a prize.
1:00pm	BIOLOGY SPREAD	Student Union 3480 McTavish Rms. 123 & 124	Test your streaking ability on a petri plate

Friday, February 7

3:00pm—4:00pm	GUEST SPEAKER: DR. PHIL GOLD	Stewart Biology Building Rm S1/4
---------------	---------------------------------	-------------------------------------

DARWIN Ski Expedition**\$6.00**

You get transportation to and from Mont Bromont, night ski pass, entertainment (with two live bands), after skiing and one beer.

\$4.00

- You get all except the ski pass—Bring your own toboggan.

\$2.50

- If you drive up, \$2.50 will get you a ticket for a ski pass, after-ski entertainment, and a beer.

All the above tickets must be bought before **Feb. 7 by 4:00 pm**
at

N2/8 Stewart. Buses leave from McGill Students' Union, 3480 McTavish at 6:30 pm on Feb. 7, and return approximately 2:00 am Feb. 8.

For any information about the "expedition" call Mark Gans at 737-8794 or drop by the MBSU office, N2/8 Stewart.